

Political Science 1: The Science of Politics
Summer 2023

Instructor: Justin Grimmer
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Office hours: Mon 2-5pm

Objectives: This course is an introduction to the systematic study of politics.

- We will use the tools of political science to investigate four major problems: governance, poverty, pollution, and violence. Students will gain a deeper understanding of why these problems exist and what might be done to address them.
- As we study the problems of governance, poverty, pollution, and violence, we will introduce key concepts and methods in the field of political science. Students will learn how political scientists build theories, generate hypotheses, and test hypotheses with quantitative and qualitative data.
- Students will have opportunities to apply their knowledge in several ways. They will critique scientific research; propose and test original hypotheses; and use theory and evidence from the class as a basis for making policy recommendations.
- The course will lay a foundation for more advanced study and for careers in a wide variety of fields. The course also fulfills one of the Social Inquiry WAYS requirements.

Lectures: Lectures will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays, 1200-150pm., in 160-127 and will reinforce and supplement the readings. We will also use lecture time for active learning exercises.

Attendance at lectures is essential for success in the class. At the same time, we recognize that students may have to miss lectures for reasons beyond their control, and we especially want students to be able to keep up with class in the event that they need to quarantine due to illness. For this reason, we will have a Zoom meeting running during lectures that will allow students to view the slides and hear the audio. Links to the Zoom meetings, as well as recordings, will be available on the course web site.

Sections: Discussion sections will meet once a week at the following times and places:

TBD

Please register for sections on Canvas, not Axess.

Evaluation:

- **End of unit quizzes (45% of your grade).** Three quizzes will be administered at the end of each unit to test your comprehension of key concepts. Quizzes will ask you to write a short (i.e., 2 paragraph) response to 4 out of 6 questions. The quizzes will be take-home, open book and open notes. The dates for each quiz are indicated below. Late quizzes will be penalized by 10 percentage points for every 24 hours. Note: the penalty is not prorated. Extensions will be granted for exceptional and unforeseen circumstances only and must be requested prior to the due date.

Units covered	Distributed	Due
Unit 1	Fri., July. 21 at 12pm	Mon., July. 24 at 12pm
Units 2 & 3	Fri., August 11 at 12pm	Mon., August. 14 at 12pm
Unit 4 & Conclusion	Fri., August 18 at 12pm	Mon., August 21 at 12pm

- **Papers (40% of your grade).** Over the quarter you will write two short (4 page) papers. Each paper assignment will give you the opportunity to practice a different style of writing, which will be useful for your academic work and your career after college.

We will provide you with specific instructions for each paper. Papers will be submitted via Canvas. Late papers will be penalized at a rate of one letter grade for every 24 hours, and papers that are too long will be marked down. Extensions will be granted for exceptional and unforeseen circumstances only and must be requested prior to the due date.

- Paper 1: Data Analysis. Due on Friday, July 28, at 5:00pm.
- Paper 2: Policy Memo. Due on Friday, August 18, at 5:00pm.
- **Section participation (15% of your grade).** You should attend and actively participate in discussion section each week. Be sure to read the assigned texts before section. The success of section depends on your willingness to offer insightful comments and ask probing questions that help everyone learn about political science.

If you have to miss a section for reasons beyond your control, you can receive credit if you write a one-page commentary on the readings for that section and submit it electronically to your TA by 12pm on the Tuesday following the section you missed. The one-page commentary will count as your participation for the week. If you can notify your TA prior to the absence, we would appreciate it.

Grades: We hope there will be no reason to contest a grade. If you have questions or concerns about a grade, you should first talk with your TA to get an explanation for why your work received the grade it did. If you still feel that your grade on an assignment does not reflect the

quality of your work, you may appeal through the following procedure. Write a memo that explains, in as much detail as possible, why you think you should have received a different grade. Give the memo to your TA, along with your graded assignment and a letter in which you formally request a re-grade. Your TA will pass the materials to another member of the teaching staff, selected at random, who will reevaluate the work and assign a new grade, which may be higher, lower, or identical to the one you originally received. This new grade will be final.

Readings: There is no required text to purchase for the course. Readings will be available on the course web site in the Modules section.

Teaching Assistant: I will be teaching with Taiwo Mustafa, an excellent graduate student in the department of political science (tmustafa@stanford.edu) .

Access and Accommodations

Stanford is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for disabled students. Disabled students are a valued and essential part of the Stanford community. We welcome you to our class.

If you experience disability, please register with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate your needs, support appropriate and reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Academic Accommodation Letter for faculty. To get started, or to re-initiate services, please visit oae.stanford.edu.

If you already have an Academic Accommodation Letter, we invite you to share your letter with us. Academic Accommodation Letters should be shared at the earliest possible opportunity so we may partner with you and OAE to identify any barriers to access and inclusion that might be encountered in your experience of this course.

COURSE OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

Monday, June 26: Science of Politics

Fischer, Sara. 2021. "Big Tech Bolts Politics." *Axios*. January 28.
<https://www.axios.com/tech-platforms-withdraw-politics-b1cf5eb5-5700-4c11-9dcd-e92fdace4864.html>

UNIT 1: POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

Wednesday, June 28: Where Do Preferences Come From?

Marble, William and Clayton Nall. 2021. "Where Self-Interest Trumps Ideology: Liberal Homeowners and Local Opposition to Housing Development." *Journal of Politics* 83: 1747–1763.

Gupta, Sujata. 2022. "Ukrainian identity solidified for 30 years. Putin ignored the science." *Science News*, April 21.
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/ukraine-identity-nationalism-independence-putin-russia>

Monday, July 3: Why are Some Countries Democratic and Others Aren't?

Przeworski, Adam, and Fernando Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: Theories and Facts." *World Politics* 49(1): 155–69, 176–79. (Skip sections III and IV, but read Appendix 1.)

Ross, Michael L. 2001. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* 53(3): 235–61.

Wednesday, July 5: How do Autocrats Stay in Power?

Frye, Timothy. 2021. "The Autocrat's Dilemmas." In *Weak Strongman: The Limits of Power in Putin's Russia*. Princeton University Press, chapter 3 (pp. 37–49).

Kendall-Taylor, Andrea, and Erica Frantz. 2014. "How Autocracies Fall." *The Washington Quarterly* 37 (1): 35–47.

Monday July 10: Choosing Representatives

Lijphart, Arend, 2012. "Electoral Systems: Majority and Plurality Methods versus Proportional Representation." In *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, pp. 130-57. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Rudalevige, Andrew. 2016. "The electoral college has serious problems. So do any alternatives." *Washington Post*, November 15: 3 pgs.

Zitner, Aaron. 2021. "Black Lawmakers, Now Winning in White Communities, Call for End to Packing Black Voters in House Districts." *Wall Street Journal*, September, 2021
<https://on.wsj.com/3tOajLd>

Wednesday July 12: Making Legislation

Smith, Steven S., Jason M. Roberts, and Ryan J. Vander Wielen. 2015. "Introduction to the Spatial Theory of Legislating," in *The American Congress*, 9th ed., pp. 409–17, 419–20. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Kilgore, Ed. 2021. "How a Filibuster Reform for Voting Rights Could Happen." *New York Magazine*. <https://nym.ag/3EnNZgl>

Frances, Lee. 2015. "How Party Polarization Affects Governance". *Annual Review of Political Science*. 18: 261–282.

Monday, July 17: Holding Leaders Accountable

Lupia, Arthur. 2016. *Uninformed: Why People Know so Little about Politics and What We Can Do About It*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 1–3, 5–7, 11, 49–58.

Ashworth, Scott. 2012. "Electoral Accountability: Recent Theoretical and Empirical Work." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 15:183-201. 184, 188–199.

Unit 1 Quiz: Friday, Jul. 21 at 12pm - Monday, Jul. 24 at 12pm

UNIT 2: POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND REDISTRIBUTION
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Wednesday, July 19: Inequality within Countries

Shapiro, Ian. 2002. "Why the Poor Don't Soak the Rich." *Daedalus* 131(1): 118–28.

Bonica, Adam, Nolan McCarty and Howard Rosenthal. 2013. “Why Hasn’t Democracy Slowed Rising Inequality?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27(3): 110–18 only.

Stepan, Alfred, and Juan J. Linz. 2011. “Comparative Perspectives on Inequality and the Quality of Democracy in the United States.” *Perspectives on Politics* 9(4): 843–54 only.

Monday, July 24 : Inequality between Countries

Sachs, Jeffrey D., Andrew D. Mellinger and John L. Gallup. 2001. “The Geography of Poverty and Wealth.” *Scientific American* 284 (3): 70–75.

Acemoglu, Daron. 2003. “Root Causes: A historical approach to assessing the role of institutions in economic development.” *Finance & Development* 40(2): 27–30.

Baum, Matthew A., and David A. Lake. 2003. “The Political Economy of Growth: Democracy and Human Capital.” *American Journal of Political Science* 47 (2): 333–47.

Wednesday, July 26: Immigration

Card, David. 1990. “The Impact of the Mariel Boatlift on the Miami Labor Market” *ILR Review*, 43(2): 245–257.

Hainmueller, Jens, and Michael J. Hiscox. 2010. “Attitudes toward Highly Skilled and Low-Skilled Immigration: Evidence from a Survey Experiment.” *American Political Science Review* 104(1): 61–84.

Michel, Julian, Michael Miller and Margaret E. Peters Miller, Michael, and Margaret Peters. 2022. “Get Out: How Autocratic Regimes Select Who Emigrates,” Working Paper.

Friday, July 28: Paper 1 Due at 5pm

UNIT 3: POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Monday, July 31: Tragedy of the Commons

Elinor Ostrom. 1990. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1–21.

Egan, Patrick J., and Megan Mullin. 2017. “Climate Change: US Public Opinion.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 20 (1): 209–27.

Wednesday, August 2: What Accounts for Environmental Policy?

Stokes, Leah “Electoral Backlash against Climate Policy: A Natural Experiment on Retrospective Voting and Local Resistance to Public Policy.” *American Journal of Political Science* 60 (4): 958–974.

Tankersley, Jim. 2022. “Biden Signs Climate, Health Bill Into Law as Other Economic Goals Remain.” *New York Times*. August 16.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/16/us/politics/biden-climate-health-bill.html>

Davenport, Carol and Lisa Friedman. 2022. “Five Decades in the Making: Why It Took Congress So Long to Act on Climate.” *New York Times*, August 7.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/07/climate/senate-climate-law.html>

Monday, August 7 : International Cooperation on the Environment

Green, Jessica F. “Climate Change Governance: Past, Present, and (Hopefully) Future.” In *Global Governance in a World of Change*, edited by Michael N. Barnett, Jon C. W. Pevehouse, and Kal Raustiala, 109–29. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Tørstad, Vegard, Håkon Sælen, and Live Standal Bøyum. 2020. “The Domestic Politics of International Climate Commitments: Which Factors Explain Cross-Country Variation in NDC Ambition?” *Environmental Research Letters* 15 (2): 1–10.

Units 2 & 3 Quiz: Friday, Aug. 11 at 12pm - Monday, Aug. 14 at 12pm

UNIT 4: WAR AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Wednesday, August 9: The Puzzle of War

Lake, David A. 2010. “Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War.” *International Security* 35(3): 7–52. (Read 7–34, 40–45, 51–2)

Kydd, Andrew. 2022. “The U.S. and Europe didn’t get what they wanted from Putin. But Putin didn’t get what he wanted from them.” *The Washington Post*, Feb. 22.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/02/22/us-europe-didnt-get-what-they-wanted-putin-putin-didnt-get-what-he-wanted-them/>

Monday, August 14: Civil War

Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 2003. “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War.” *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75–90.

Patrick M. Regan, *Sixteen Million One: Understanding Civil War*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2009, chs. 7–8 (pp. 79–106).

CONCLUSION - THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

Wednesday, August 16: A Republic, If You Can Keep It

Highton, Benjamin. 2017. “Voter Identification Laws and Turnout in the United States.” *Annual Review of Political Science*. 20:149–167.

Walter, Barbara F. 2022. *How Civil Wars Start*. New York: Crown Books, chapter 7 (pp. 181–93).

Viewing supplement: Inside the Completely Legal GOP Plot to Destroy American Democracy
(Available here:
<https://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/100000008442323/republicans-democracy-elections-bannon.html>)

Friday, August 18: Paper 2 due at 5pm

Unit 4 & Conclusion Quiz: Friday, Aug18 at 12pm - Monday, Aug 21 at 12pm